

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 007694 /10
R 140930Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2587

S E C R E T CONAKRY 2427

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EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR PINT PINS US GV UR
SUBJ: SUPPRESSION OF SOVIET RECONNAISSANCE DEPLOYMENTS AND
PL-480 AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 296232

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI SAYS GOG PREFERS
HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
US AND GUINEA PRIOR TO TECHNICAL PL-480 TALKS. THERE
IS (#) GIVE IN GOG POSITION. RECOMMEND AMBAS-

SADOR RETURN IN JANUARY FOR CONSULTATION ON US POLICY
TOWARD GUINEA. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR REQUESTED INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT BUT
WAS RECEIVED DECEMBER 11 BY PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI.
PRESENT WERE FOREIGN MINISTER FIFY CISSOKO, MINISTER
OF BANKS NFALY SANGARE, PRESIDENT'S CHIEF OF PROTOCOL
ALY BANGOURA, AND DCM. PER REFTEL AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED
THAT TO RECEIVE PL-480 DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON WOULD
BE INCONVENIENT UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR, BUT US
SIDE WOULD IN DUE COURSE SUGGEST A DATE. FOLLOW-
ING PATTERN OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE'S MEETING
WITH BAH, AMBASSADOR SAID US INTENDED CARRY FORWARD
ITS HISTORICAL TITLE I PROGRAM. AMBASSADOR ALSO
REHERSED CONTINUING US CONCERN OVER TU-95 DEPLOY-
MENTS TARGETED AGAINST US NAVY, WHICH INEVITABLY

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RAISED DOUBTS ABOUT GUINEAN NONALIGNMENT.

3. PRIMIN RESPONDED WITH LENGTHLY MONOLOGUE ON FAMILIAR THEMES OF GOG'S UNSWERVING NONALIGNMENT, FREQUENT DIFFERENCES WITH SOVIETS, SECURITY CONCERNS, ETC. BEAVOGUI NOTED UNENTHUSIASTICALLY THAT GOG HAS SENSED AMBIGUITY IN BAH'S REPORT OF HIS MEETING ON PL-480 WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE. THERE WAS "STILL A CLOUD" AND "TENSION" IN US-GUINEAN RELATIONS CAUSED BY US "ACCUSATIONS" CONCERNING SOVIET FLIGHTS AND GUINEAN NONALIGNMENT.

4. FONMIN INTERJECTED THAT US KNEW (AND HE HAD REPEATED TO AMBASSADOR SEELYE IN NEW YORK) THAT IF US WOULD GUARANTEE GUINEA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND WOULD ITSELF PROTECT GUINEA THEN SOVIET PLANES AND SHIPS WOULD DEPART. US HAD REFUSED TO DO THIS. FONMIN AGAIN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TU-95 DEPLOYMENTS ESSENTIALLY PROVIDED PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SYMBOLIC SHIELD. (COMMENT: FONMIN IS THE ONLY OFFICIAL WE HAVE HEARD ADMIT THIS). AMBASSADOR AS INSTRUCTED DID NOT DISCUSS "SECURITY GUARANTY" ISSUE.

5. PRIMIN SUPPORTED BY FONMIN SAID IT SEEMED INAPPROPRIATE FOR TECHNICAL PL-480 DELEGATION TO VISIT WASHINGTON BEFORE BASIC POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND GUINEA WERE CLARIFIED AND MUTUAL CONFIDENCE REESTABLISHED. ONCE ESSENTIAL BILATERAL ISSUES WERE IRONED OUT PL-480 AND OTHER COOPERATION COULD PROCEED NATURALLY. FOR THAT REASON THEY FELT IT PREFERABLE THAT A HIGH LEVEL MINISTERIAL DELEGATION VISIT WASHINGTON IN EARLY 1977, OR BETTER YET THAT A SENIOR "RESPONSIBLE" AMERICAN OFFICIAL VISIT CONAKRY FOR BENEFIT OF DIRECT DISCUSSION WITH SEKOU TOURE. BEAVOGUI RECALLED HIS PREVIOUS URGING ABOUT HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS AND GOG INVITATION TO SENATOR CLARK.

6. FONMIN AND PRIMIN WONDERED POLITELY WHETHER AMBASSADOR'S REPORTING MADE A PERSUASIVE CASE FOR GUINEAN POINT OF VIEW, OR WHETHER PERHAPS HIS REPORT-
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ING CONTRIBUTED TO USG "INCOMPREHENSION." AMBASSADOR ASSURED MINISTERS THAT HE REPORTED GOG VIEWS FULLY AS HE UNDERSTOOD THEM, BUT WASHINGTON WAS INFORMED INDEPENDENTLY OF TRUE NATURE SOVIET DEPLOYMENTS.

7. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION:
THERE WAS NO GIVE IN GUINEAN POSITION (MUCH OF

MEETING HAD DEJA VU FLAVOR). FONMIN IN FACT DEFINED "SECURITY GUARANTY" IN MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND MILITARY TERMS WE HAVE HEARD YET. HOWEVER, PRIMIN MENTIONED THAT PLANES HAD NOT BEEN BACK AGAIN, AND MINISTER OF BANKS SANGARE LATER NOTED RATHER MEANINGFULLY THAT WE HAD NOT SEEN PLANES RECENTLY. THESE APPARENT HINTS MAY OR MAY NOT BE SIGNIFICANT. TU-95S WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE EXPECTED BACK FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS ANYWAY. GOG DESIRE TO DISCUSS BASIC DIFFERENCES AT SENIOR LEVEL MAY PROVE USEFUL TO US, AND UNDERLINES VALUE OF MAINTAINING PRESSURE ON NONALIGNMENT ISSUE REGARDLESS OF PL-480 POLICY.

8. ALTHOUGH RAPPORT BETWEEN GOG AND PRIVATE AMERICAN FIRMS SEEMS HEALTHY AND EXPANDING, BILATERAL POLITICAL RELATIONS ARE STAGNANT. PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE WILL APPARENTLY NOT RECEIVE ME AT PRESENT, AND MAY HOLD ME RESPONSIBLE FOR DISAGREEABLE US POSITION ON GOG FACILITATION OF SOVIET DEPLOYMENTS. I BELIEVE HE CONTINUES TO FEEL A HEALTHY PRESSURE OVER THIS AFFAIR. I PLAN TO LEAVE THIS WEEK FOR ONE MONTH VACATION. EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT HAVE HAD POLICY DIFFERENCES IN RECENT WEEKS. SINCE WE ARE ENTERING A NEW PHASE, I RECOMMEND THAT, AFTER CHECKING DEVELOPMENTS HERE IN MID-JANUARY, I RETURN FOR BRIEF CONSULTATION IN ORDER TO AGREE UPON OUR STRATEGY TOWARD GUINEA AND OUR NEXT POLICY ACTIONS. HARROP

NOTE BY OC/T: CONAKRY 2427 ((#) OMISSION CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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